

REMARKS:

The courtesies extended to the undersigned by Examiner Banh and by Primary Examiner Colilla during the interview held November 16, 2009 are acknowledged and appreciated. As was discussed during that interview, it is believed that claim 166, as currently amended, is patentable over the prior art cited and relied on, taken either singly or in combination. As was also discussing during the interview with Examiner Banh, Fig. 7 of the drawings filed with the application has been amended to show the claimed control unit. Various paragraphs of the Substitute Specification have been amended. It is believed that the claims which are now pending in the subject patent application are patentable over the prior art cited and relied on, taken either singly or in combination. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application and allowance of the claims, in response to the Second Amendment, and further in response to the filing of an associated Request for Continued Examination (RCE), is respectfully requested.

As discussed with Examiners Banh and Colilla, the subject invention, as recited in currently amended claim 166, is directed to a device that is usable to adjust contact pressures between a plurality of first rollers and an adjacent rotatable body. The plurality of first rollers may be ink rollers or dampening agent rollers and they typically bear against an adjacent rotatable body, such as a forme cylinder. Ink transfer and/or dampening fluid transfer between the plurality of first rollers and the rotatable adjacent body is, to some extent, a function of a contact pressure which the first rollers each exert on the surface of the adjacent rotational body. Since at least one of the plurality of first rollers and the adjacent rotational body, has or have resilient surfaces, an effective measure of the contact force between the two is the width, in the circumferential

direction of the roller or of the roller and cylinder, of the contact strip that is formed between each of the plurality of first rollers and the adjacent rotational body.

In accordance with the present invention, and as recited in currently amended claim 166, each one of these separate roller contact strips is provided with its separate identifier. For example, note the identifier N11 for the roller strip which exists between dampening forme roller 04 and forme cylinder 12, as seen in Fig. 1. Also note the identifiers N21 and N31 that identify the roller strips which are formed between the ink forme rollers 06 and 07 and the forme cylinder 12. In this arrangement, the ink forme rollers 06 and 07, as well as the dampening forme roller 04 constitute the plurality of first rollers which are in engagement with the adjacent rotational body. The roller strip identifiers N11, N21 and N31 are the separate designators that are usable to designate or to identify each separate roller strip.

As is depicted in the several drawings and as is discussed in the Substitute Specification, each of the plurality of first rollers is supported at each of its ends by a separate support bearing. Such a support bearing may be seen most clearly in Fig. 3 at 21. Each such support bearing includes a roller mount 39 which is shiftable radially in its associated separate support bearing. A plurality of actuators are usable to shift each such roller mount. In the subject invention, these plurality of actuators are inflatable hose sections, one of which is identified at 22 in Fig. 3. Each one of these actuators is connected to a supply of fluid under pressure. The amount of such fluid under pressure is controlled to provide a resultant force that each one of the first rollers applies against the adjacent rotatable body.

Each one of the actuators in each one of the support bearings and roller mount assemblies is identified by a unique identifying element. Those identifying elements are shown in Fig. 7 of the drawings and are described in the Substitute Specification. The Examiner's attention is directed to paragraphs 008 and 025.

A control unit is usable by the press operator to select a specific roller strip by the use of the separate designator that has been assigned to each such roller strip. Once that has been done, the press operator can further select which actuator or actuators for the separate support bearing and the separate roller mount for each end of the selected roller responsible for the roller strip to be adjusted. This is done by use of the unique identifier for each one of the actuators for each end of each roller. In this regard, the Examiner is requested to review the discussion at paragraphs 042 and 044 of the Substitute Specification. Through the use of the control unit, the press operator can thus display and can control each actuator for each selected separate roller strip. Further, the control unit can also selectively display the contact pressure for each one of the selected ones of the plurality of first rollers against the adjacent rotational body.

As was discussed with Examiner Banh during the interview, it was noted by the undersigned that the control unit recited in currently amended independent claim 166, and discussed in detail in a number of the paragraphs of the Substitute Specification, was not depicted in the drawings. The undersigned has thus amended Fig. 7 of the drawings to schematically depict a suitable control unit, which has been indicated by reference numeral 60. A number of the paragraphs of the Substitute Specification have been revised to set forth this reference numeral. While 20 of the paragraphs of the Substitute Specification have been so amended, in virtually every paragraph, the single

change is the addition of the reference numeral 60. It is believed that the changes to Fig. 7 of the drawings and to the various paragraphs of the Substitute Specification do not constitute any new matter. Their entry into the application is respectfully requested.

In the Final Office Action of August 18, 2009 in the subject U.S. patent application, claims 87-165, 167 and 168 were noted as being withdrawn from consideration. Claims 166, 169 and 170, the only three claims being considered by the Examiner, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO02/074541 to Faist, and its U.S. equivalent, U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2004/0050274, hereinafter Faist '274, in view of WO03/049947, also to Faist, and its U.S. equivalent, U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2005/0076800, hereinafter Faist '800. It was asserted that Faist '274 teaches a device for use in adjusting a contact pressure exerted by a roller in a printing couple. It was admitted that Faist '274 does not teach a control unit adapted to adjust and to control the plurality of actuators for the single roller 21 to vary the width of the roller strip during printing.

The secondary Faist '800 reference was cited as teaching a control unit which controls a plurality of actuators to change the contact force exerted by one roller to a second roller. It was stated that it would be obvious to use the control unit to remotely actuate the actuators to change the width of the roller strips.

With respect to claim 169, it was stated that Faist '274 and Faist '800 teach the device of claim 166 with one roller and thus one roller strip. It was asserted that since there is only one strip, the single strip is capable of being designated by a separate designator.

As was discussed with Examiner Banh and with Primary Examiner Colilla during the course of the interview, the subject invention, as set forth in currently amended claim 166, recites a plurality of first rollers, and an adjacent rotational body. Selected ones of the first rollers are brought into contact with the surface of the adjacent rotational body and each such first roller forms its own separate roller strip at its point of contact with the adjacent rotational body. Each of these separate roller strips is identified by a separate designator, as recited in currently amended claim 166.

Each of the plurality of first rollers is mounted at both of its ends, by a separate support bearing. Each such support bearing is, in turn, provided with a roller mount. A plurality of actuators are interposed between each separate support bearing and each associated roller mount. Each such actuator for each one of the separate first rollers is provided with its own unique identifying element.

The control unit, which, as was discussed above, has now been added to Fig. 7, and which is discussed in detail in numerous locations in the Substitute Specification, has a display device and is usable to allow a user to select each one of the plurality of actuators for each one of the plurality of separate roller strips. This is accomplished by the use of the separate roller strip designator for each such first roller and then by the use of the unique identifying element for each of the actuators. The press operator can thus use the single control unit to set, change and adjust the roller strip formed by each one of the first rollers during each such first roller's engagement with the adjacent rotational body.

The combination of Faist '274 and Faist '800 do not provide any teaching or suggestion of the device set forth in currently amended claim 166. It was admitted in the

Office Action that Faist '800, which is the only reference that recites a control unit, has no teachings or suggestion of the designation of each separate roller strip by a separate designation and the identification of each of the plurality of actuators for each of the plurality first rollers with a unique identifying element. There is thus no reason why one of skill in the art would arrive at the subject invention, based on the teachings of the two Faist references. The Faist '800 reference is clearly directed to the use of a plurality of rollers that engage the surface of an adjacent rotational body. Further, the reference discusses the use of actuators for each such first roller. However, Faist '800 only briefly mentions the use of a control console to actuate the actuators. This brief reference is set forth at column 13, lines 4-7 of U.S. Patent No. 7,117,792, which is the issued patent equivalent of the Faist '800 reference. It would not be apparent to one of skill in the art to take this brief disclosure of the provision of a control console and to take the steps of assigning each of the separate roller strips with a separate designator and of using a unique identifying element for each of the plurality of actuators for each of the separate rollers. It is thus quite clear that claim 166, as currently pending, is not rendered obvious to one of skill in the art over the combination of references cited and relied on in the rejection of the claims.

As was discussed with Examiner Banh and Primary Examiner Colilla, the changes made in currently pending, independent claim 166 appear to distinguish over the prior art. In anticipation of the allowance of claim 166 as currently amended, a number of the currently withdrawn claims have also been amended. It is anticipated that upon the indication of the allowability of currently amended claim 166, these withdrawn claims will be rejoined.

SUMMARY:

The drawings have been amended to depict the control unit recited in the Substitute Specification. Various paragraphs of the Substitute Specification have also been amended to refer to the control unit by the reference numeral now assigned to it. These changes do not constitute any new matter.

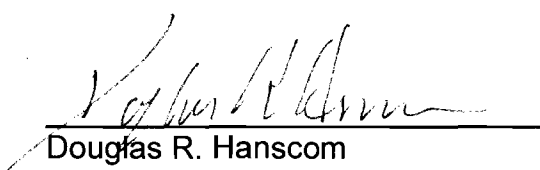
Independent claim 166 has been amended to more clearly patentably define the present invention over the prior art cited and relied on. In anticipation of the allowability of claim 166, various ones of the currently withdrawn claims have also been amended.

Allowance of the claims, and passage of the application to issue is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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